

TOWN OF COTTAGE GROVE  
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING  
APRIL 21, 2015

- I. The meeting was called to order by Town Chair Kris Hampton at 7:00 P.M. Town Clerk Kim Banigan recorded the minutes, and Attorney Connie Anderson provided legal counsel. Treasurer Debra Abel was also present. A list of other attendees is available in the Town Clerk's Office, which included 15 Town Electors.
- II. Flag Pledge.
- III. The minutes of last year's Annual Town Meeting were available in printed form. There was no reading of the minutes. **MOTION** by Mike DuPlayee/Steve Anders to approve the minutes of the April 15, 2014 Annual Town Meeting as printed. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE.**
- IV. Additions to agenda by Electors: None.
- V. Presentation of the 2014 Annual Town Financial Report: The 2014 Statement of Revenues and Expenditures was printed on the back side of the agenda. Jay Bennett of Johnson Block and Company presented an overview of the Town's 2014 Financial Statements. Once again the Town's financial statements have been given an unqualified opinion, the highest level of assurance possible. Bennett made the following observations:
  - 2014 was fairly comparable to 2013 in terms of general fund activity. Total assets were at \$2,752,211, compared to \$2,568,260 in 2013. Cash was at \$947,810, compared to \$813,252 in 2013.
  - The 2014 year end governmental fund balance was \$818,341, up from \$673,958 in 2013. Of this balance, \$639,157 was unassigned, representing 27.4% of the 2015 budgeted expenses, which falls within the Town's Fund Balance Policy. \$6,058 was restricted for the Liberty Prairie Cemetery, \$94,820 was committed for sick leave liability, \$82,088 was assigned for specific purposes, and \$2,276 was non-spendable (pre-paid 2015 expenses).
  - The income statement shows a net income of \$144,383.
  - At the end of 2014, the Town had \$271,975 in outstanding General Obligation debt, just 1.09% of its debt capacity. The clerk noted that as of today, the Town has zero debt, although the 2015 budget calls for more short term borrowing this year.
  - Total expenditures in 2014 were \$2,415,812. Public works represented the highest category of spending at 45%, with public safety following at 31%. Other major spending categories included general government at 11% and debt service at 12%.
  - Total revenues for 2014 were \$2,285,439. Taxes made up the highest percentage at 64%, followed by intergovernmental revenue at 12% and public charges for services at 11%. Other revenues included intergovernmental charges for services, licenses and permits, fines, forfeitures and penalties, interest.
  - The required communication to the Town Board included the usual warning to small municipalities about a lack of segregation of duties due to a small office staff, and lack of expertise to prepare the financial statements.
  - Bennett's only recommendation was that the Town consider adopting a written fraud policy, which he can provide a model for.
- VI. Update on policing of the Town by the Dane County Sheriff's Office: Captain Jeff Teuscher explained that the Town's contract with the Dane County Sheriff's Office provides three deputies who are completely dedicated to the Town of Cottage Grove. They are supplemented by precinct

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staff and detectives. He then introduced Crime Analyst Michael Walnoha, who presented statistics through April 15, 2015:

- There were 723 calls for service, of which 414 were traffic related. It was noted that the statistics are not limited to services provided by the Town's contracted deputies, but include all Sheriff's Office activity in the Town. A map showed that incidents are concentrated in the more heavily populated areas and on the more heavily traveled roads. A breakdown by hour of the day shows that most of the calls take place between 7 a.m. and 11 p.m., with a spike between 5 and 6 p.m.
- There were 401 citations issued, 201 by contract deputies, the rest by the Traffic Team and Southeast Beat deputies. 257 were for speeding violations. Other violations included insurance and registration violations, OWI, and various traffic infractions.
- Only 2% of the call volume was crime related. Significant incidents included an arson fire, a drug overdose, an auto theft (related parties), and theft from an auto.

- VII. Update on sex offender ordinance: Hampton reported that on April 6, 2015, after considering research and recommendations from the Town Attorney and Ordinance Committee, the Town Board adopted an ordinance to regulate where convicted sex offenders can reside and loiter. The distance of 1,000 feet from child congregation areas that sex offender residences must abide by was selected because it survived a legal challenge in South Milwaukee. Should a larger distance survive a legal challenge, the Town could consider increasing this distance.

Truman Neinstedt, 3789 Sky High Road, asked how this ordinance applies to sex offenders already residing in the Town. Atty. Anderson said those residing here prior to the effective date of the ordinance would be unaffected. On a related matter, Neinstedt stated his opinion that the Town Board's decision to bill the owner of the property at 4721 Gaston Circle for extraordinary costs for the arson fire was immoral, akin to charging a rape victim for the rape test kit.

- VIII. Update on improvements to I39/90 and the County AB/US Hwy 12 & 18 intersection: A map of the DOT's current plan was projected on the wall. Hampton explained that the plans include moving County AB to the east, with frontage roads to AB from Millpond Road and the Dane County Landfill. The DOT will limit new access points and close off some if possible. This probably won't take place for another 8 years or so, when funding can be tied in with the improvements to the I-39/US Hwy 12 & 18 interchange.

- IX. Progress report on the 2015 update of the Town's Smart Growth Comprehensive Plan: A time line for the update was projected on the wall. From March through May the Plan Commission is looking at the Conditions and Issues and the Visions and Directions Volumes. These set the stage for the comprehensive plan. Hampton asked for input regarding ways to lessen the impact of pressure from the City of Madison and Village of Cottage Grove, to keep the Town whole rather than slowly being eaten up by annexations. He feels that the area along the relocated County AB will be prime for commercial development, and wondered if the Town should consider purchasing the Hlavac farm to develop it as a commercial condominium. Steve Anders added that these are the up and coming thing because business owners don't have to absorb land costs or deal with the City under ETJ. Mike Fonger said if the Town purchased the property, the tax base would be lost until somebody buys it. Hampton agreed, but added that being agricultural in use, the tax base is not that significant. Atty. Anderson noted that any decision to purchase property would require another Town Meeting to be held.

Romayn Rote, 2964 Gaston Road, said that 38 years ago he was told not to worry, the City would

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never jump the interstate. Today it abuts the Town at its northwest corner, and we need to do whatever we can to be ready for them.

Truman Neinstedt questioned having Town Board members on the Plan Commission, suggesting that it defeats the purpose of having a commission. Steve Anders countered that the Town Board members provide an important perspective. Neinstedt also suggested that a long-term tax sharing deal should be worked out with the City of Madison. He stated that some of the property owners along AB would probably like to be annexed.

- X. Set date for next year's Annual Town Meeting: **MOTION** by Mike DuPlayee/Kristi Williams to hold next year's Annual Town Meeting on Tuesday, April 19, 2016 at 7:00 P.M. at the Town Hall. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE.**
- XI. Other Business: None.
- XII. Adjournment: **MOTION** by Steve Anders/Kristi Williams to adjourn. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE.** The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

Kim Banigan  
Clerk

Approved 4-19-2016